HRT3M
1.2 The Nature of Religious Experience

What is Religion?

- Although Religion is such a major part of the development of civilization, there are a considerable amount of definitions

- What does Religion mean to you?

What is Religion?

- "Religion is the worship of higher powers from the sense of need"

- "Religion is a unified system of beliefs and practices relative to sacred things, and beliefs which unite into a single moral community called a church, all those who adhere to them

- The belief in a superhuman controlling power, esp in a personal God or Gods entitled to obedience or worship

The Religious Experience

- What does the word experience mean when attached to the word Religion?
- We would often think of the word experience as a means for acquiring knowledge through a controlled observation of facts
- Attached to religion it refers to what is felt on a personal level in the practice of religion

The Religious Experience

- How can we feel this Religious Experience?
- Can be sensory, emotional, intellectual, or spiritual in nature
- It is the inner, personal face of religion
- Spiritual feelings are not always religious

The Religious Experience

- We can describe an experience as religious, when an infinite, mysterious presence, or that intuition of an absolute state of consciousness, is connected to the divine.

- There are many forms of **religious expression.**

- Any ideas?????

The Religious Experience
Religious Expression

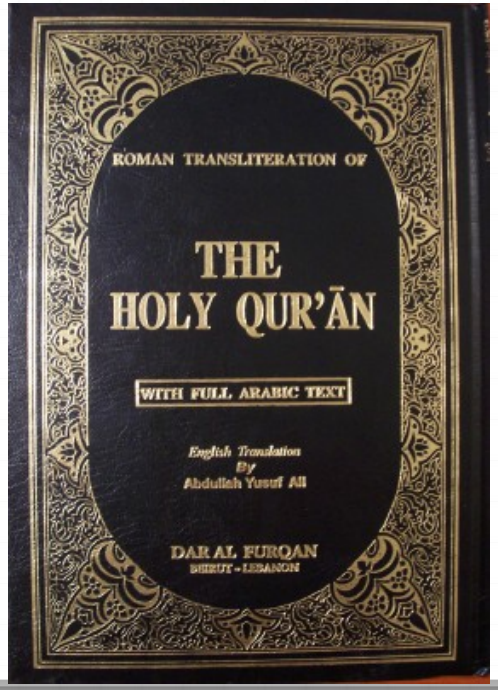
PRACTICES

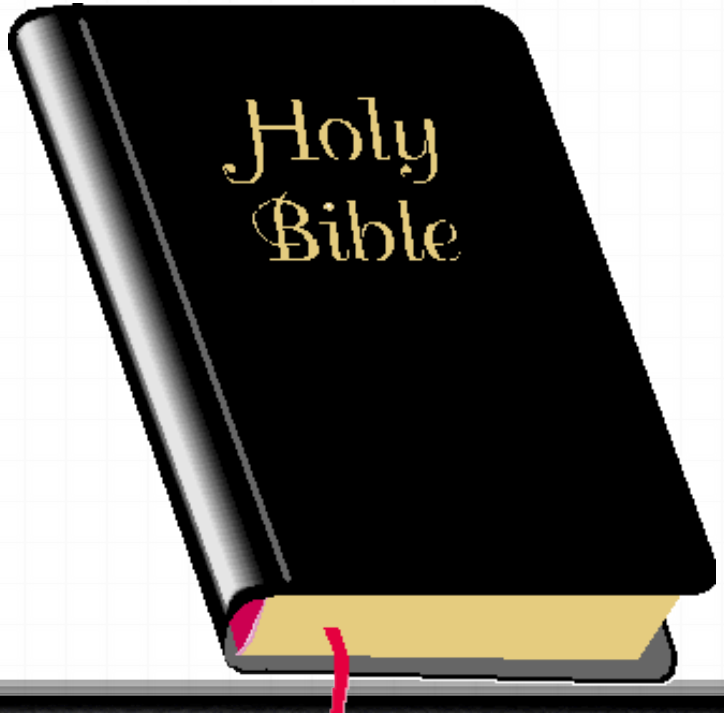
The Religious Experience
Religious Expression

Places

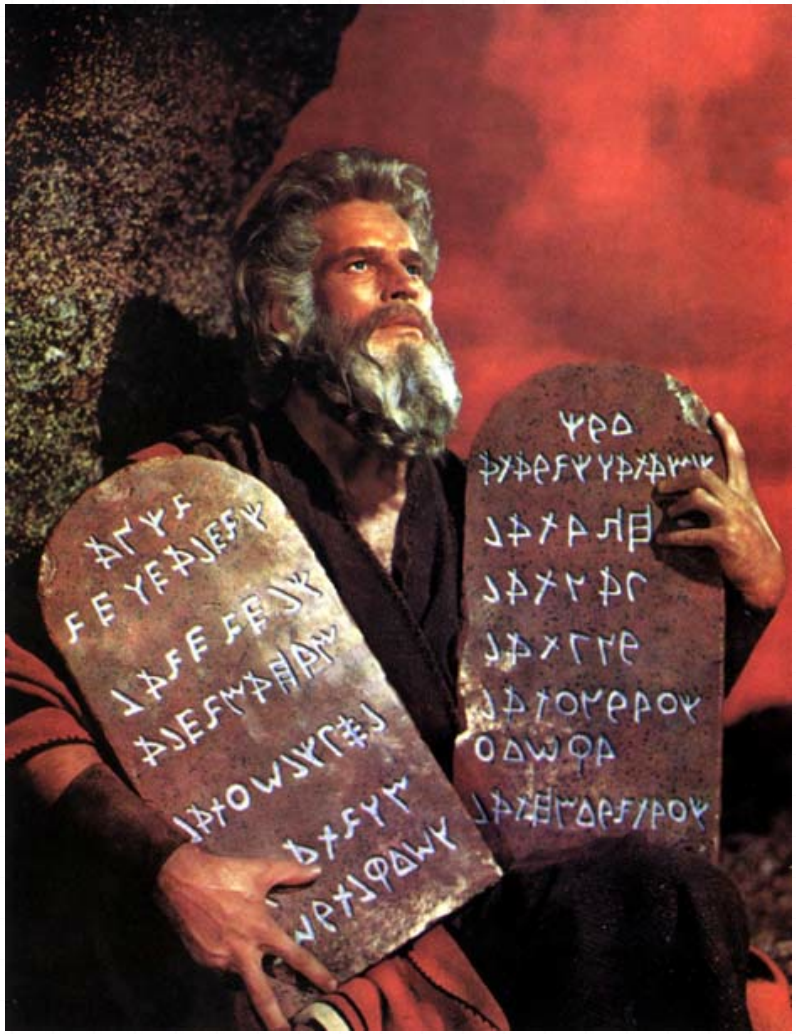
The Religious Experience
Religious Expression

Texts/Books





The Religious Experience
Religious Expression



Works of Art

The Religious Experience
Religious Expression

- Religious experience occurs within a system of beliefs, and each religious tradition has its own way to get in touch with the divine

- Practice such as:

Prayer

Worship

The Religious Experience Religious Expression

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Prayer or meditation are many and diverse, they all usually require an attitude of **contemplation**

(state of the body, mind and soul that allows people to isolate themselves from distractions and find space within them to concentrate spiritually)

Ways to Transmit a Religious Experience

- The transmission of a religious experience can take many forms
- Systems of belief appeared well before writing
- For a long time the transmission of manners and customs, practices and beliefs, were done orally

Ways to Transmit a Religious Experience

- Later, when writing first appeared in China, it was mainly scribes that transmitted it

- Throughout the centuries, the desire to transmit a religious tradition led to teaching entire communities to read and write

How Do We Experience Religion in Everyday Life?

The Wonder of Nature

How Do We Experience Religion in Everyday Life?

Prayer

Silence or vocalized and rhythmic

How Do We Experience Religion in Everyday Life?

Prayer Beads from Around The World

Roman Catholic

Rosary

How Do We Experience Religion in Everyday Life?

Orthodox Christians

How Do We Experience Religion in Everyday Life?

Islamic

Misbaha

How Do We Experience Religion in Everyday Life?

Buddhism

How Do We Experience Religion in Everyday Life?

Hindu

Rudraksha

How Do We Experience Religion in Everyday Life?

Meditation

→Voluntary practice that can be of physical, emotional, intellectual or spiritual in nature

→Sometimes can involve all of the above

→Meditation is not exclusive to religion